

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6 and 11-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 13 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 13.

Attorney Docket Number

Applicant requests that the Attorney Docket No. for this matter be changed from "0007056-0204/P6024" as indicated on the cover sheet received with this office action to "16159/095001; P6024."

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to clarify the invention. In particular, the aforementioned independent claims have been amended to clarify that the invention involves (i) defining a class, wherein the class defines a special operator and wherein the class defines at least one action to perform when the special operator is called; (ii) instantiating an instance of the class; and (iii) calling a special operator of the class when an operator corresponding to the special operator is called and the instance of the class is an argument of the operator. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in pages 10 and 11 of the instant specification. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

that the above example is merely intended to illustrate the operation of an embodiment of the invention and is not intended to limit the scope of the claims.

Turning to the claims, the Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Josuttis nor Christiansen teach or suggest all the limitations recited in the amended claims. Specifically, while both Josuttis and Christiansen teach operators (*see* Josuttis p. 3 and Christiansen p.6), they fail to teach or suggest:

- (i) operators which include functionality to uses instances of classes as arguments (*i.e.*, using the example above, neither Josuttis nor Christiansen include functionality to allowing `foreach i x {...}` where x is an instance of a class);
- (ii) classes that define special operators and actions to perform when the special operators are called, wherein the special operators are called when the corresponding operator includes an instance of the class as an argument (*i.e.*, using the example above, neither Josuttis nor Christiansen include allow a user to define class X and functionality to call the `foreach ()` in class X when the `foreach` operator in the main program is called using `foreach i x {...}`).

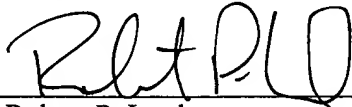
In view of the above, neither Josuttis nor Christiansen, whether considered separately or in combination, teach or suggest all the limitations recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 13 are patentable over Josuttis and Christiansen. Pending dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159/095001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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